

REMARKS

Claims 2-18 and 20-24 are currently pending in this application. Claims 3, 6, and 10-18 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species of invention. Pursuant to the June 18, 2007 Office Action, independent claims 1, 19, 23, and 24 were rejected, and claims 2, 4, 5, 7-9, and 20-22 were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

The Examiner is thanked for calling Applicants' undersigned representative on Monday, October 24, 2007 to discuss this application. The Examiner suggested amending allowable claims 2 and 20 to include the limitations of claims 1 and 19. The Examiner also suggested amending claims 23 and 24 to include similar limitations to that of allowable claim 2, and provided proposed language for amending claims 23 and 24.

By way of this Reply, claims 1 and 19 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 5, and 7 have been re-written into independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 20, 21, and 22 have been re-written into independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 19. In accordance with the Examiner's recommendation, method claim 23 and claim 24 have amended to add subject matter similar to the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 2. Independent claims 2, 5, 7, and 20-24 have also

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been amended to correct a minor antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Based on the foregoing amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 2, 4, 5, 7-9, and 20-24, are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshida et al.

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